STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)

On H. Res. 450, Recognizing Space Shuttle Commander Eileen Collins, Mission Specialist Wendy Lawrence, and the contributions of all other women who have worked with NASA following the successful mission of Space Shuttle Discovery on STS-114

September 20, 2005

I stand today in support of the resolution offered by my colleague from New York, Mrs. Maloney. This resolution recognizes the valuable contributions that women have made at NASA, and particularly praises those who played a role in the success of STS-114.

The accomplishments of the STS-114 crew are the result of a rich history of women at NASA. Long before STS-114, women like Sally Ride (the first American woman in space), Kathryn Sullivan (the first American woman to perform a spacewalk), Mae Jemison (the first African-American woman in space), and Shannon Lucid (the previous American record holder for the length of time spent in space on a single mission) pushed the boundaries of human spaceflight.

Women have also paid a dear price in the name of human spaceflight. Christa McAuliffe, Judith Resnick, Kalpana Chawla (*Call-Pawn-uh Chah-La*), and Laurel Clark will always be remembered for their courage and heroism.

Eileen Collins, Wendy Lawrence, and the rest of the STS-114 crew stand on the shoulders of those great women who came before them, and this resolution rightly recognizes that fact.

Once again, I thank the Gentlewoman from New York for introducing this important resolution, and I yield back my time.